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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who preserves our Nation with the power of Your might, we lift our hearts in praise. We are grateful for Your unfailing love and faithfulness because Your promises are backed by the honor of Your Name. We place our hope in You and remember daily how You have sustained us in the past.

Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to trust You in the small things, realizing that faithfulness with the least prepares them for fidelity with the much. May they trust You to do what is best for America in good times and in bad. Look down from Heaven on the entire human family and give us Your peace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week we commemorate National Police Week and pay tribute to the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers who keep our country and our communities safe. We are grateful for their service and for their sacrifice. We benefit from their pledge to serve, protect, and defend.

I had the pleasure recently of meeting with several officers from Richmond, KY, who were in town for the events of police week. I also met with the families of Kentucky police officers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Tragically, five officers from the Bluegrass State were lost in 2015: on March 5, Lieutenant Clifford Scott Travis of the Bullitt County Detention Center; on March 11, Officer Burke Jevon Rhoads of the Nicholasville Police Department; on June 23, State Trooper Eric Keith Chrisman; on September 13, State Trooper Joseph Cameron Ponder; and on November 6, Senior Patrol Officer Daniel Neil Ellis of the Richmond Police Department.

The names of these five officers, along with the names of hundreds of other brave officers from across the country, have been added to our national monument to law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty—the National Law Enforcement Officers

Memorial. The names of over 500 Kentuckians appear on the memorial, and more than 20,000 names from across the country appear in all.

That includes the four Capitol police officers we have lost in the line of duty since 1994. The Capitol police recently held a ceremony to honor their fallen officers. It reminds us of the continuing sacrifices of the men and women who stand guard every day at the very heart of our democracy. We are grateful for their service.

I am a proud cosponsor of the resolution to recognize National Police Week this year. The resolution recognizes the work of active-duty law enforcement officers, the 25th anniversary of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the 15th anniversary of 9/11, and all the officers lost in the line of duty in 2015.

I am also a proud cosponsor of the Fallen Heroes Flag Act. This bill would create a program to provide flags that have been flown over the Capitol to the immediate family members of law enforcement and public safety officers who were lost in the line of duty. This bill has passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the President's signature.

I am also a cosponsor, with my friend the senior Senator from Texas, of the POLICE Act. The POLICE Act would expand COPS grants so that those grants could be used for active-shooter training and to help equip law enforcement to respond to events like the San Bernardino shootings. Passing the POLICE Act would help give our police officers the training they need to do their jobs more effectively. I am hopeful we can quickly move to this important legislation.

I am proud to represent Kentucky's police officers here in the Senate. Law enforcement is very dangerous work. It is also a noble calling, and I am grateful for the service of every police officer in Kentucky and across the Nation. I know my colleagues share my deep

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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